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## WAITING FOR PUBLIC OPINION.

The mass of the good people seem to be waiting for public opinion. *Whose opinion?* A few years ago an earthquake nearly destroyed a village upon the island of Mytilene in the Aegean Sea. At the very moment of its occurrence a Turkish steamer was passing near. On board were surgeons belonging to the army. They were besought to lend a hand in dressing the wounds of the poor maimed men and women on the shore. But they replied that they could not do it, for they had received no orders. So they sailed on. The heart-rending cries of the sufferers could be distinctly heard, but they sailed on. Public opinion in Turkey was with the surgeons.

## THE MILITARY UNDULY PROMINENT AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CENTENNIAL IN NEW YORK.

Prof. Felix Adler of the Society for Ethical Culture spoke to a large audience in Chickering Hall, April 7, on the Washington centennial celebration. He criticised the programme of the day as published in the papers. He objected in part to the military parade, saying: "Our nation is a peaceful one and we do not seek reputation by the valor of our arms. The absence of the military spirit is our greatest blessing. The military parade will not express, therefore, the characteristic spirit of our institutions, but pomp is attractive, and the parade may be admitted for that reason. The industrial exhibition is proper enough, but I am baffled when I try to understand the connection between dancing and the Constitution. Dancing on State occasions is a remnant of European court customs, and is out of place with a practical, common-sense people, and out of place here. We should have literary exercises in greater number. The oration delivered on the steps of the Treasury is not sufficient. The intellectual forces of the community should assert themselves and give the celebration the intellectual stamp which it lacks. It is not yet too late. Let the programme be added to. Let the college be heard from. Let the scientific bodies and literary societies be heard from. Let a day be fixed a week after the parade when our great orators, statesmen, Judges, profound students of the Constitution, and famous writers shall assemble and make a series of addresses which shall be sent throughout the land and impress the people with the idea of the Constitution."

[It seems to us that the celebration should be simultaneous but local. Each community should have its own, and engage its best talent to recite the victories of one hundred years of law, of which but ten were years of war. —ED.]

## JOHN BRIGHT AT ROCHDALE.

Neither Rochdale, nor the suburb or environs where Bright's house stands, would be attractive but for him. His house was of brick of no great size, nor anything other than what might be expected of a Quaker mansion. His family clung to the tastes and habits of his religion and of his people. There was nothing gay but the bindings of his books; which I think had been given him.

Mr. Bright in private life was a most genial and lovable man. His first wife was the daughter of Jonathan Priestman, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, who made his home life at "One Ash," Rochdale, a very happy one. His first marriage occurred in 1839, and his second marriage in 1849, when the daughter of William Leatham, a Wakefield banker, became his wife. He was a most tender and devoted father, his children numbering eight. His home was one of the least ostentatious, yet pleasantest in England. Americans were always welcome there, Mr. Sumner having, perhaps, the freest entrance to it. Mr. Bright was an expert angler and was very fond of horses and dogs. One of his famous jokes, that Mr. Lowe and Mr. Horsman in opposition reminded him of a Scotch terrier, which was so covered with hair that it was difficult to tell which was the head and which was the tail, was inspired by the shaggiest of his pets at "One Ash." Mr. Bright's library was his favorite room. Surrounded there with his books and with a happy circle of children and grandchildren within call, he was one of the most contented men in England. Visitors who were admitted there saw a broad-chested, white-haired man, with a high forehead, a full Saxon face, keen blue eyes overhung with dark, heavy eyebrows, a mouth at once firm and good-humored, and features betokening animation, dignity and serenity. This was John Bright.

## TALKING ABOUT WAR.

## GOLDWIN SMITH THINKS THE WARS OF THIS COUNTRY WERE BENEFICIAL.

The Congregational Club of New York and vicinity held its monthly meeting and dinner at Clark's Twenty-third-street restaurant last evening. Upward of 150 persons were present. The theme taken for the evening's discussion was "The Sympathy of Nations." I was opened by the Rev. R. B. Howard, Secretary of the American Peace Society of Boston, who made an extended address. The reverend gentleman's discourse was in the main an argument to show that Christianity and the advance of civilization had so mastered and created a kindred feeling among the nations of the world that war, except among barbaric or semi-civilized people, ought not and he hoped would no more be waged.

Prof. Goldwin Smith took rather a different stand than Dr. Howard. "Christianity, the wide dissemination of literature and science," he said, "have in a large degree, but not wholly, abolished possible war among nations. Civilization has brought with it arbitration, but arbitration is not a total solution. Commercial differences can, should, and undoubtedly will be settled by arbitration, but it would fail in a case where a nation's honor had been injured, where the controversy was one in which the people felt that their manhood had been insulted by an affront offered to their country. War has not been without its virtues. It has done more than anything else to elevate our standard of humanity. As a proof of this, witness the kindly treatment of the wounded and of prisoners in recent wars and compare that treatment with the horrible butcheries of wounded and prisoners in the earlier conflicts. The wars of America, and I speak as an Englishman, certainly have been necessary and resulted in incalculable good, which could only have been accomplished by strife." —*N. Y. Times.*